The Sun.

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 1881.

The regular circulation of THE SUN *for the week ending May 21, 1881, was:*

Sunday	121,995	Weekly	65,620
Monday	117,564	Thursday	121,706
Tuesday	119,885	Friday	121,577
Wednesday	120,110	Saturday	122,986

Total for the week 911,443

No Honest Work is Dishonorable.

The complaint that a man who has been President of the United States cannot find any proper employment afterward, is rather disgusting. "An ex-President," says a writer in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, "cannot turn his hand to anything. He is surrounded by an atmosphere of dignity. Who would want to see an ex-President driving a milk wagon?"

Is not this the perfection of silliness! Is there any warrant for it either in the laws or the habits of the American people! A man who has been President can set himself about any useful work exactly as well as a man who has not. Let him drive a milk wagon, if he cannot do anything more serviceable. There is no shame, no disgrace, about driving a milk wagon. It is a healthy, manly, and honest business, especially if there is no water put into the milk. We know several respectable citizens who are engaged in this occupation, and who have reason to be proud of it.

If a retired President is a very old man, if his physical strength is diminished, if his mental energies are no longer aggressive, let him retire and spend his time in such diversions as suit his tastes and his state of health. But, if he is yet vigorous, let him set about something that is worth doing. In the memorable career of JOHN QUINCY ADAMS the most honored chapter is that of his public services rendered during the nineteen years of his life after he had left the White House; and a fact most creditable to Gen. GRANT is his recent industrious enlistment in the work of railroad building.

It would be just as well for all but incurable fools to avoid such snobbish chatter about the want of suitable and dignified employments for men who have been President. Any employment that is useful and honest is dignified enough for an angel.

Briefly Historical.

There was once an infamous bargain by which HAYES got into the White House, and from which certain Southern Democrats derived benefits of various sorts.

STANLEY MATTHEWS of Ohio helped negotiate this bargain. Nobody helped more than he did. WILLIAM E. CHANDLER of New Hampshire denounced the bargain. No Republican denounced it more energetically.

Four years and more afterward, STANLEY MATTHEWS and WILLIAM E. CHANDLER were nominated by the President of the United States for high offices for which they were both unfit. While both were unfit, the unfitness of MATTHEWS was so glaring that CHANDLER's appointment seemed almost good by comparison.

In the Senate, STANLEY MATTHEWS, who had made the bargain, was confirmed by Democratic votes; WILLIAM E. CHANDLER, who had denounced the bargain, was rejected by the same Democratic votes.

Roscoe Conkling and Paul R. George.

ROSCOE CONKLING has taken a very different course toward President GARFIELD from that which the late PAUL R. GEORGE took toward the late FRANKLIN PIERCE.

When Gen. PIERCE was running for President, Mr. GEORGE was among the busiest and most ardent of his supporters. PIERCE appeared to place a high estimate upon the value of Mr. GEORGE's aid.

After the election and inauguration, Mr. GEORGE went to Washington and kept up his lifelong familiarity with the President, never doubting that he had a great stake in the new Administration which he had labored so arduously to create. He was a frequent, almost constant, caller at the White House; until, one day, the President, with a somewhat lofty air, intimated to him that some friends had suggested that it would be better if Mr. GEORGE were seen at the Executive Mansion less frequently.

Mr. GEORGE was very quick witted. He did not require a second hint. He comprehended the situation at the first glance. He looked the President full in the eye, and calmly said:

"FRANK, you and I have always known each other and been intimate friends. We went to school together and have played ball together, been in swimming many times together. I never before received an intimation from you that my company was disagreeable or undesirable to you. On the contrary, I have had many reasons to think differently, and especially during the recent campaign. Now you are President of the United States, and you are afraid that my coming here will injure your Administration. *Good-by,* FRANK!"

Then, suddenly rising and turning on his heel, with an air of ineffable contempt, he took abrupt and final leave of the man whom a little authority had so greatly changed.

Midhat Pasha's Arrest.

The arrest of MIDHAT Pasha for complicity in the assassination of ABDUL AZIZ recalls some of the most remarkable events in the recent history of Turkey. Sultans have often been deposed by men no better than themselves, but in this case the deposition was planned and approved by the best element of the Ottoman community, and was meant to usher in an era of genuine reform.

It was the state of hopeless bankruptcy into which the Ottoman finances had fallen by the beginning of 1876 which alienated the sympathies of western Europe and cut off the resources of the Porte. Nearly two billions of dollars had been borrowed since the Crimean war, and, with the exception of the sums spent on the fleet of ironclads which was to prove quite useless in the impending contest, the whole of this vast amount had been squandered by the sovereign. To the mass of honest Mussulmans, as well as to the Christian population, ABDUL AZIZ was the evil genius of the empire, and no reform seemed possible while he remained upon the throne. On the other hand, all classes of the people, except the bureaucrats who profited by the corruption which pervaded the public service, recognized in MIDHAT Pasha the one man who might yet save the State by a thorough reconstruction of the finances and every other branch of the Administration. Such was the situation in the month of May, 1876, when the strange series of events began which involved the deposition of two Sultans, and which constituted the last spasmodic effort of a nation to avert inevitable ruin.

The first step was taken on May 11, when the Softas, or theological students, to the number of ten thousand, marched to the Porte and demanded the removal of the Grand Vizier and of the Sheik-ul-Islam. Constantinople having been stripped of troops in order to put down the insurrection in Bulgaria, these demands could not be refused, and accordingly the denounced functionaries were replaced the next day by men of incorruptible integrity, pledged to the party of reform. MIDHAT Pasha, who was unquestionably the mainspring of the movement, became at the same time a Minister without portfolio. The position, however, of the new officials was extremely insecure, as it soon leaked out that the Sultan was only waiting for the return of the troops from Bulgaria to reinstate their predecessors. In this predicament an hypothetical case was laid before the new Sheik-ul-Islam for his decision. Asked whether in certain specified circumstances it was lawful and even necessary to depose the Commander of the Faithful, he replied in the affirmative. Armed with this warrant, which was given in writing, the Ministers, on the evening of May 29, arrested ABDUL AZIZ, and on the following day proclaimed him deposed and his nephew MURAD his successor. That the new Sultan knew to whom he was indebted may be inferred from an incident which occurred at his accession. It is said that when MIDHAT Pasha came forward to kiss his hand MURAD refused to allow it, intimating that the obeisance should rather come from him.

Within less than a week afterward—on the night, that is, of June 4—the ex-Sultan, ABDUL AZIZ, was found speechless and dying in the palace where he had been imprisoned. The veins in his arms had been opened with a pair of small scissors, and of course it was reported that a murder had been committed. A jury, however, composed of nineteen foreign physicians residing in Pera, after a careful examination of the body, signed a document declaring it to be their unanimous conviction that the wounds in the arm had been inflicted by the ex-Sultan himself, and were the exclusive cause of his death. It is now alleged that in the recent inquiry instituted at Constantinople evidence was elicited tending to show that the death of ABDUL AZIZ was not a suicide but a murder, and that MIDHAT Pasha was accessory to the crime. In pursuance of this charge MIDHAT was arrested, and the treatment he had previously received at the hands of the present Sultan, ABDUL HAMID, renders his situation one of the gravest peril. To appreciate how much credit should be given to this accusation, it is needful to take up the thread of events in the critical year of 1876, and note what ground ABDUL HAMID has for disliking his former Minister.

MURAD V. was proclaimed, but never crowned, being superseded by his brother, ABDUL HAMID, on Aug. 31, or almost precisely three months after his accession. The fact that he is still alive affords the best of reasons for believing that mental derangement was the real as well as the alleged cause of his removal. There is no reason whatever for supposing that MURAD had proved not sufficiently plastic in the hands of the new Ministers. The expenses of the palace had been curtailed, the corruption in the public offices had been sternly dealt with, the massacres in Bulgaria had been completely checked, and the application of the reforms projected had been delayed only by the outbreak of the war with Servia. For a time, too, after the proclamation and coronation of ABDUL HAMID the work of renovation was vigorously carried forward. By the middle of December MIDHAT Pasha, who had been for six months the most influential man in Turkey, and who alone possessed the confidence alike of the Softas and of the Christians, was made Grand Vizier. Three days afterward he introduced the scheme of parliamentary government which, at the worst, would have relieved the country from the uncontrolled will of an autocrat. ABDUL HAMID and the palace favorites never forgave the Vizier for having extorted from his sovereign an assent to a constitution. From that moment the Sultan only sought a pretext for dismissing him, and he found one in MIDHAT's resolute attempt to restore something like order to the Ottoman finances, and limit the wasteful expenditure upon the royal harem. The Sultan had agreed to spend only a fixed monthly sum for his personal needs, and the Finance Minister, acting in accordance with MIDHAT's express orders, refused to furnish any more money until the next instalment was due. Threatened, however, with the displeasure of his master, he made the desired advance, and was promptly dismissed by the Grand Vizier. A day or two later MIDHAT was removed from office, hurried secretly on board a steamer, and sent into banishment. Every corrupt bureaucrat in the capital was delighted at his departure, but every honest Moslem mourned his fall, and the Christian subjects of the Porte recognized that the last chance of voluntary reforms had vanished.

MIDHAT Pasha remained in exile until the treaty of Berlin and the special compact with England in regard to Anatolia bound the Sultan to make some pretence of good intentions. The ex-Vizier was then recalled, and made Governor of one of the pashaliks in Asia. But his advice was treated with ill-disguised contempt at Constantinople, and in proportion as the influence of England declined, his position was fraught with greater danger. At length the Sultan seems to have thought it safe to proceed to extremities against him, and the so-called inquiry into the death of ABDUL AZIZ was begun. It may be true that the French Consul at Smyrna, with whom MIDHAT sought refuge, exceeded his legal powers in giving him protection. But it is much to be deplored that one of the most able, upright, and patriotic men in Turkey could not have found some means of escape from the malice of the worthless ruler whom he had placed upon the throne.

England Loses the American Iron Market.

The English manufacturers of iron are making up their minds that they must soon altogether lose the American market. Some of them are satisfied that the demand from this country has already ceased for the present, and they are generally of the opinion that it is only a matter of time, and a short time, too, before we shall become entirely independent of them. They are therefore discussing methods of developing new markets in Asia and in Africa.

From the year 1874 to the end of 1879 we were poor customers for the iron men of England and Scotland. Whereas before we had been importing iron and steel rails at the rate of from 300,000 to 500,000 tons annually, the quantity fell in 1877 to thirty tons, and in 1878 to eleven tons. Our imports of pig iron amounted to nearly 250,000 tons in 1872, and in 1878 they were only 55,000 tons. Practically there was no market here for foreign rails. Our own furnaces were making no money; some of them were run at a loss; and many were blown out by their discouraged or bankrupt owners. The iron business of England sympathized with the adversity in the United States, and great suffering followed in the districts where it was conducted.

But the enormous demand for iron which came up suddenly here in 1880 changed the whole face of things. Our furnaces could not turn out the supply fast enough. Prices advanced rapidly, and it became possible to again import pig iron and iron and steel rails at a profit. The consequence, of course, was that speculation received a great impetus, and men began to gamble in iron as they gamble in stocks, in cotton, wheat, and corn. It did not take long to overstock the market with foreign iron, prices declined, and the speculators began to fail. During 1880 we imported 1,882,605 gross tons of iron and steel, against 769,986 tons in 1879, and far less in the four years just previous. England sold us nearly all of this, and consequently the year was one of exceptional profits for her iron men.

The home iron business, however, was meantime encouraged to push forward preparations for meeting the growing demand. Disused furnaces were put in blast; new ones were built; plenty of capital became available, and soon we were ready to supply the market ourselves. Though prices fell, they are still high enough to make the business profitable for the domestic manufacturer, while they are not at figures which encourage importation. The speculators had early burned their fingers, and the trade resumed its normal course. The whole number of establishments in 1880 was 1,005, against 808 in 1870, and they were of vastly greater size and capacity. For instance, the capacity of the blast furnaces was 8,357 tons daily in 1870, while in 1880 it was 19,248 tons. The capital employed in the business, too, increased from $121,772,074 in 1870, to $230,971,884 in 1880. The total production of our iron and steel works was nearly doubled in the ten years. The increase in pig iron in 1880 over 1879 was more than forty per cent.

It is therefore apparent that we are now beginning to make at home all the iron we need, and that before the year is out we shall be obliged to import very little comparatively. The English manufacturers will then be deprived almost entirely of the market which in the past has been most profitable for them. Though we are now building railroads more rapidly and more extensively than ever before, our own furnaces are supplying the rails for them at prices with which foreigners cannot compete under the existing duties.

Where, then, shall England look for a market which will replace the American? There is no other comparable to that we have furnished in the past; but in their anxiety the English iron men are bethinking themselves that China ought to make a good customer. China is wofully in need of railroads, according to all our Western ideas. Inland transportation there is still as difficult as it was a thousand years ago. The ordinary roads are bad, and the few great highways are kept in worse repair than they were in the middle ages. The canal and river boats move slowly, and the interior navigation is generally tedious to the last degree. China certainly suffers for the lack of railroads. The Japanese have been prompt to introduce them, along with the telegraph, and their postal system now rivals in its completeness the best in Europe and America. But the Chinese stand out against railroads. They have built for their navy steamers of the finest types, and have armed them with guns which are far more powerful than any we have afloat. They have dock yards and navy yards of great extent and with all the modern improvements, and they have learned the advantages of repeating rifles in war. Yet they tore up the only railroad ever built in China. It was the project of English engineers, and was popular to an unexpected degree; but the authorities bought it up, sent the locomotives at full speed into the sea, destroyed all traces of the track, and treated the constructors with suspicion and contempt.

The outlook for an immediate demand for English rails in China, therefore, does not seem hopeful. Prince LI, however, is more favorable to the locomotive than most Chinamen in authority. He has even advocated the construction of two railroads, and before long China must be forced to take advantage of the modern means of transportation. Yet England can never in our time hope to find in China a market for its iron which will take the place of that it has lost in the United States. When it comes, railroad building there is likely to be slow, and Chinese jealousy and suspicion of England will stand in the way of the profitable trade the iron men so much covet. The intention of China seems to be to construct her own railroads when she is ready for them, and she will resent dependence on the English for the materials.

The Growth of Cities in Europe and America.

Our census of last year showed that the population of the cities had increased in a much larger proportion than that of the country as a whole. In some of the States there were fewer people in the agricultural counties than ten years ago, and in New England, especially, such gain as had been made was almost entirely in the cities. Without an exception, the number of their inhabitants was found to be greater than in 1870, and in many cases, both at the West and the East, they had more than doubled in size during that short time. Even in the new States of the far West the fast-coming immigrants are largely tending to congregate in the towns, and nowhere else in the country has the proportionate increase of the urban population been so great as there.

We have so far received only partial returns of the late English census, but what we have got indicate that there, too, the cities are gaining at the expense of the agricultural portions of the country. Many of the smaller villages have fewer inhabitants now than they contained a quarter of a century ago, and, almost without exception, they have decreased in population since the last census, that of 1871. Meanwhile the cities have uniformly gained. Their rate of increase may not have been so great as that of our chief cities, but in some cases it has been as high as twenty-five per cent., and generally it has exceeded ten per cent. Glasgow, for instance, now contains 555,289 inhabitants, against 477,156 in 1871, a gain of nearly a sixth. Edinburgh has a population of 235,435, an increase of about one-seventh. Dundee numbers 140,463 persons, or over a seventh more than in 1871. Birmingham now has a population of 408,004, a gain of nearly one-fifth. Throughout the United Kingdom the manufacturing centres have been drawing more people to them, and the consequence has been the thinning out of the farming districts, for such gain as England makes in population now is chiefly by natural increase. It gets comparatively few accessions from immigration, while it is at present losing largely by emigration. Any great increase in the population of one region must therefore be made at the expense of another.

As the population of the agricultural portions of the counties decreases the amount of land under cultivation grows less. The total is smaller now than in 1871; and it becomes more and more evident that the farming interest of England must steadily decline in importance. During the last two or three years their gains have been so small—if, indeed, the balance has not been on the wrong side—that the farmers are emigrating to the United States in great numbers.

The German census shows that there also agriculture is relatively declining in importance, while the cities, the centres of trade and manufacture, are making steady gains. The population of the German empire on the 1st of last December was 45,194,172 souls, an increase in four years of 2,466,912. But this gain was chiefly in the cities, Berlin having advanced at a rate which compares well with that of our principal capitals. The farming communities are generally the greatest losers by emigration, which never was so active as now.

We therefore see that both in a new country, where a large proportion of the land remains untilled, and in the old States of Europe, where it is all under cultivation, men are more and more disposed to congregate in great cities.

Mr. Gowen on Pennsylvania Corruption.

Mr. FRANKLIN B. GOWEN, the President of the Reading Railroad Company, is a man whose deliberate utterances are entitled to respect, and have always heretofore been so received in Pennsylvania. He is a man of many distinctions besides those he has earned at the head of the great corporation in connection with which he is best known beyond that State. As a lawyer, his position in the first rank is unquestioned, and as such he has performed gratuitously some very remarkable public services. He was an active and influential member of the Convention which framed the reform Constitution of 1873, against which every corrupt Ring, every public plunderer, and every ballot stuffer in Pennsylvania made common cause. Indeed, Mr. GOWEN has in many ways been a terror to evil-doers in a State where, by reason of the ascendancy of corrupt men, public justice has had to rely for its vindication upon the exertions of private citizens. For these and other reasons, whatever Mr. GOWEN has to say at any time should be carefully attended to.

Recently Mr. GOWEN made a speech to the shareholders of the Reading Company, vindicating his own management, and describing the efforts of various enemies to wreck the property. This speech has been issued in pamphlet form, and is about as lively reading as can be found anywhere. We have nothing to do with the contest between *bona fide* shareholders of that company; but some of Mr. GOWEN's plainest statements concern the public more than they do the Reading railroad.

He describes the municipal Government of Philadelphia as absolutely debauched. For years the Councils legislated only upon "orders" from the Pennsylvania Railroad office. He gives a case where the officers of the Pennsylvania had agreed with him to permit the passage of a certain ordinance, and afterward "bribed with money the Councils to defeat it." He gives names, dates, and all but amounts, as a merchant might state a transaction from his books. When he comes to talk about the Riot bill, which he unhesitatingly designates as the "four million steal," his remarks are simply terrible, speaking as he is of the Legislature of a civilized State. He intimates very plainly that the greatest criminals were not put to the bar; and that while the conviction of KEMBLE and the others was a very good thing in its way, it was a very small thing in comparison with what ought to have been done. He declares that he made with the aid of skilful detectives an investigation of his own; that, indeed, he observed through such agents every step in the progress of the corruption; and as the result he is able to state that if every other convict in the penitentiary were selected until the number reached two hundred and fifty, these would form a far decenter body than the Pennsylvania Legislature. We have looked through the Pennsylvania papers for some defence of their public authorities against this sweeping denunciation from so responsible a source, but have found none. If what Mr. GOWEN says is true, the situation there is even more deplorable than we had supposed.

Dr. GEORGE B. LORING of Massachusetts, who succeeds LE DUC as Commissioner of Agriculture, has long been the standard cattle show orator in that State, and on him has usually devolved the duty of acting as temporary Chairman of Republican State Conventions. This fact he finally came to speak of as "this annual honor" when he stood up to express his thanks to the assembled delegates. In Massachusetts a cattle show is a display of pumpkins, mangel-wurzels, bed quilts, patent churns, embroidery, apple-paring machines, wagon jacks, and other articles useful to farmers and their families, with an occasional quadruped by way of justification of the name. In every hamlet that has within the last twenty years or so held a cattle show the name of Dr. LORING is a household word. Dr. LORING is considered a handsome man by the farmers' wives. He wears a Prince Albert coat, buttoned closely, and his rich voice seems to proceed from the region of the middle button. He has the faculty of becoming eloquent on topics little calculated to inspire men to eloquence, and he can speak to any length and breadth on any subject without forethought. When he rises in the tent at a cattle show and waxes eloquent upon the soil of the surrounding hills, even the squashes seem to crook their necks to get a better view of him, the conscious pumpkins turn a deeper red, and the bunches of seed corn prick up their ears. Dr. LORING is also equal to an oration at short notice on centennial occasions and that sort of thing, and he has never been known to refrain from being eloquent. Dr. LORING is not a practical tiller of the soil. He is a doctor of medicine—whether practical or not we are not informed—and his home is in historic Salem. He may not prove himself equal to LE DUC in originating such projects as acquiring for his native land a monopoly in the matter of tea and leaving China and Japan out in the cold; but it is not to be feared that the country will derive less benefit from the Bureau of Agriculture under his control than under the guidance of LE DUC.

Vassar had its annual field day on Friday, or, rather, its river day, for the main feature is always an excursion on the Hudson. One of the noteworthy elements of this yearly spree is the air of mystery that surrounds it; for at Vassar, if anywhere, feminine nature should be understood, and it is a rule of these festal trips that the juniors, who are the annual entertainers, do not tell in advance the seniors, their guests, though tortured with curiosity, whither they are going—thus themselves taking a lesson in the hard task of keeping a secret. This year's goal proved to be the Grand Hotel in the Catskills, where tortue verte, poisson bleu, canards braisés, and many other things, not to forget, above all, cornichons, satisfied the inner woman prior to the poesy and song and speeches. Vassar evidently furnishes the full round of ordinary college life, even including the social features; but she has not yet established an adjunct department for male students corresponding to the Harvard annex.

What was it that caused the sale of two million copies of the revised New Testament in Great Britain on the first day of its publication, and perhaps half a million in this country? Was it idle curiosity, was it a popular fashion, was it a skilfully worked-up business scheme, or was it a real desire to get at what purports to be a closer and clearer rendering of the inspired volume?

TRICKETT's promise to visit America this summer will probably revive professional boating, and prevent an off year for champion sculling. Advantage should be taken of his presence to have a good professional sculling match near New York, with HANLAN as well as the lesser lights taking part.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN EUROPE.

With the arrival of bounteous May, the London season may be considered to have fairly begun. The opening of the Royal Academy and the Grosvenor Gallery picture exhibitions, the May meetings at Exeter Hall—which, by the way, begin in April—the reassembling of Parliament after the Easter recess, all proclaim that the fashionable world is beginning to enjoy itself to the best of its ability. May is popularly rated in England as the first summer month. This year it is far from being so in fact. The east winds have kept back the foliage, and the trees and shrubs in the parks and squares are but scantily clothed in their green costumes, which will soon become almost black from the soot emitted by the myriad chimneys. Nowhere is summer so apparent at this time of the year as in Covent Garden Market and in the green grocers' shops. From the west of England trains laden with vegetables are hurrying to deposit their loads at the Londoners' doors. The florists' windows are bright with flowers which do not owe their existence to the aid of artificial methods of production. Although the opening of the summer has not been so far very encouraging to the British farmer, he is in high hopes that the weather may this year behave itself and give him a fair chance of pocketing some of the money he has failed to gain for the last six years. The backwardness of the season has not discouraged him, for he knows that a too early advent of hot weather is likely to do much more harm than good by stunting the growth of the green crops upon which so much of his prosperity depends. If the English should have an old-time summer, they will grumble at its heat, dust, and other disagreeable concomitants with as much vigor as they have grumbled at the rain which has been drenching them since 1875.

The London press is beginning to perceive that the rest of the world is taking seriously the ridicule which the caricaturists of *Punch* lavish on the alleged æsthetic craze that is represented as turning London houses into miniature bedlams. It is now distinctly denied that any such tomfoolery is at all prevalent. There may be in England a few idiots like those depicted by Du Maurier, but that they are in society, or even on its borders, is said to be absurdly untrue. In fact, there are distinct signs that the satirists have done an immense amount of harm. There was growing up among all classes a love of the beautiful in art—which is the long and short of æstheticism—and the proverbially ugly homes of the English middle classes were striving to rival the beauty and taste to be found in the houses of other nationalities. This healthy movement has been seriously retarded by the ridicule cast upon it by the comic prints, by such plays as "The Colonel," and by Gilbert and Sullivan's new opera, "Patience, or Bunthorne's Bride."

The Royal Academy banquet took place this year as usual, and was attended by most of the notable personages of the kingdom. Speeches were made by the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, Mr. Matthew Arnold, Sir Frederick Roberts, Lord Selborne, Mr. Gladstone, and the President of the Academy, Sir Frederick Leighton. A gloomy tone was necessarily given to these speeches by the references to Lord Beaconsfield's death. Recollections were called up of occasions when the deceased Earl had encouraged art by his presence and eloquence at former Academy dinners. His absence from the scene was accentuated by the large portrait which occupies the place of honor in the picture gallery. It will be remembered that the late Lord Beaconsfield was giving sittings for the picture to Mr. Millais when illness struck him down. The artist, at the Queen's request, sent this picture for exhibition. About its merits opinions are as diverse as possible. Some judges have gone the length of pronouncing it a miracle of art. Others declare it to be the worst picture that Mr. Millais has ever painted. Whichever may be correct, the financial success of the work is undoubted, as $10,000 has been paid for it by Mr. W. H. Smith, M. P., who was First Lord of the Admiralty under Lord Beaconsfield.

The President of the Royal Academy is a brilliant orator, and he needed to be so, since five speeches fell to his share. His chief effort was made in returning thanks for the toast of "The Royal Academy." This gave him an opportunity to give an account of his stewardship as the head of that body. More important, however, was his announcement of what the Academy intended to do toward promoting art, thereby discharging the duties which the nation expects of it, but which have hitherto been sadly neglected. It is purposed not only to exhibit works of art, but to give instruction by means of which promising students may prepare themselves to become exhibitors. The sister arts of sculpture, mural painting, and line engraving are also to be encouraged. The difficulty will be to decide upon the best method of affording such encouragement, and it is suggested that the only practical way to do so is by raising the level of public taste to a pitch which will enable it to distinguish good work from bad.

The Boers are not imitating the magnanimity displayed by the English Government in withdrawing their troops before their wounded honor had been healed. The lives of those who, trusting in the protection of the British, have taken up their abode in the Transvaal are not safe, and those who have the hardihood to remain are told: "You used to sing 'Rule Britannia,' but we have made you alter your tune." These taunts have an element of truth in them which makes them doubly unpalatable. When it is remembered that Laing's Neck is in British territory, that under the peace conditions the troops are not allowed to occupy it, and that the English are not permitted to send arms into the territory which the Boers have to give up under the treaty, it looks like singing small with a vengeance. More than this, the Boers are showing a disinclination to carry out their part of the treaty, and it is thought that the Royal Commission, which must be now conferring with the Boer magnates about points which were not covered by the treaty, will be dealt with in a manner that will show the contempt for British authority evidently felt nowadays in South Africa.

It was seriously proposed by Russia, with the approval of Germany, that an invitation to a conference should be sent to the great powers of Europe with a view to devising methods of putting down Nihilism and Socialism. One of these was to facilitate the extradition of political offenders—and thus do away with what is known as the "right of asylum"—at the request of the power against which the offence had been committed. It was thought prudent to issue these invitations seriatim, and the French Government was the first to be approached. The reply of M. Barthélemy Saint Hilaire was so discouraging that it was thought the scheme would not be persevered with. The French Foreign Minister plainly intimated that his country thought Russia had brought the vengeance of the conspirators on herself by giving them no alternative between the two extremes of violence and apathy. The English Government has been equally firm in refusing to join in any conference on this subject, on the ground that it would be impossible to arrive at any practical result, and that the spirit of the English people would never sanction any departure from the time-honored unwritten laws of hospitality, which have proved so effective against tyrannical persecution in years gone by.

It is believed that Alexander III. has under serious consideration a plan of constitutional reform which would provide the requisite safety valve for the escape of the superfluous steam which now finds vent in explosions of dynamite. Evil counsellors, however, tell the Czar that such concessions at this time would be seized upon as signs of cowardice, and would only encourage the Nihilists to exact terms still more odious to an autocratic government. This argument has much show of plausibility, and if Alexander is weak enough to consult his private feelings, in preference to the welfare of his empire, he will probably postpone the necessary reforms until assassination shall have permanently prevented his putting them into execution. Experience must have taught him that measures of repression only aggravate the evil, and that the only way to deal with secret societies is to permit freedom of speech, and so rob these societies of their great attraction—their mysteriousness. Had Sophia Perofsky been permitted the free use of her tongue, she would probably have subsided into a harmless advocate of woman's rights. It has been shown that when a body of men have made up their minds to assassinate a person, precautions are vain to avert the attempt.

The bitterest enemy which the Church of England has had to contend against in recent times is dead. Mr. Edward Miall was educated as a minister of the sect known as "Independents," and served in that capacity for some time. Forty years ago he began an open war upon the Established Church by issuing the *Nonconformist*, which boldly demanded the separation of Church and State. As a champion of the "voluntary principle" he soon drew on himself the attention of the numerous and moneyed body of Dissenters, and was enabled to form an Anti-State-Church Association. In order to carry his war into the enemy's country he sought admission to the House of Commons, but was rejected by two constituencies before being returned member for Rochdale in 1852. Five years afterward he lost his seat, but in the mean time he had made a name for himself by submitting a motion with a view to disestablishing the Irish Church, which was defeated by an overwhelming majority. Twelve years later, when he again obtained a seat in the Legislature, he found Mr. Gladstone's Irish Church bill in a fair way to become law. In 1871 he submitted another motion, this time with a view to Disestablishment of the Church of England. A majority of nearly two hundred showed him that his action was premature. He therefore determined on another mode of attack, and applied for a royal commission to inquire into the property held by the Church. A majority of about the same size as the former again balked his purpose. But undismayed, he returned to the charge, and in the following year again brought forward his motion for disestablishment. He was again defeated by a majority of nearly three hundred. Shortly afterward he retired from political life.

Speculation is rife in England about the coming race for the Derby, which will take place on June 1. More than usual interest is excited this year by the running of the American horses in the "Two Thousand Guineas," the conditions of which are similar to those of the race for the Blue Ribbon of the turf, except in the distance and in the severity of the course, both of which are greater at Epsom than at Newmarket. That American horses should have come in second and third in one of the crack races of the year is no small feather in our caps. It is by no means improbable that, as happened in last year's Derby, the second past the post at Newmarket may reverse the order of things at Epsom. It is admitted by good judges that the winner of the "Two Thousand" had a very moderate lot of horses to beat, and it is assumed that over a stiffer course he would have had an easier victory. Whether this be so or not must remain a secret until June 1—the "Glorious First," as it is termed, on account of its being the anniversary of Lord Howe's famous naval victory. Lord Howe fought against us in our War of Independence, and commanded the English fleet in a battle with the French and American ships off Rhode Island in 1778. It would be a coincidence if, in a contest on Epsom Downs, our horses should lower the English flag on the day made famous in the annals of English history by our old opponent.

The commercial treaty between England and France will shortly run out, and much anxiety is evinced in the former country about its renewal. The French, on the other hand, seem determined to return to their system of protection, at the same time profiting by the English adherence to free trade principles. The French argue that even under the present treaty, the English cannot compete with French industry in the French markets, while what England takes from France she cannot do without. They see no reason, therefore, why they should reciprocate in any manner, and a new tariff is under consideration which will place the British manufacturer at a still greater disadvantage. The English Chambers of Commerce are very angry at this slap in the face, and are requesting the Government to withdraw at once from all further negotiations.

The Parisian journals lay all the blame of the Tunisian troubles at the door of Mustapha-ben-Ismaël, the Prime Minister of the Bey. Mustapha is known to have been most favorably disposed toward Italy, and is believed to have been in the pay of that country. His career has been a remarkable one. He came from the lowest ranks of life, and, after a short career as a barber, entered the kitchen of the Bey, where his complacence rendered him a favorite with the head cooks. He soon found a way to ingratiate himself with the Bey, and entered his bodyguard. At the age of 17 he was made a Lieutenant-Colonel, at 20 a Colonel, at 23 a Brigadier-General, commanding the Royal Guard, at 28 a General of Division, and at 31 Minister of Marine. Three years later he was appointed Minister of Finance, and the following year Prime Minister, when he took charge of the Bey's Foreign Office. In this capacity he received many foreign decorations and became a Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor. He looks after the Bey's money matters, and is therefore very rich. The Bey, being childless, adopted a little girl to whom he had taken a fancy, and not long afterward married her to Mustapha. The Bey is completely under Mustapha's control, and it is pretty certain that the Prime Minister's name heads the list of the Tunisian officials whom the French Consul-General has requested the Bey to turn adrift.

A series of old scandals has been recalled to the memory of Parisians by the death of Alfred Musard. His famous wife died two years ago in a madhouse. During the latter part of her lifetime much surprise was excited by the richness of her diamonds and equipages. It was at last discovered that her husband used to accompany her to the Dutch frontier, where a postchaise conveyed her to the hunting box of the King of Holland, from which she would return in about three days laden with riches. Mme. Musard was an American, and some of her diamonds may now come into the possession of her relatives in this country.

N. L. T.

The Gospel According to the Hebrews.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The revised edition of the New Testament seems to excite universal interest, and its appearance reminds me that I heard a long time ago of a "lost Gospel"—the Gospel according to the Hebrews, I think.

Can any of THE SUN's learned readers inform me whether any portions of that Gospel have ever been recovered, and, if so, of what validity they are?

H. W. TURNER.

Let the Fourth be Celebrated, Too!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The arrangements for the celebration of Decoration Day are nearly completed, and Major-Gen. Shaler has already issued his orders for a parade of the militia.

The Fourth of July is also coming. Since the advent of the Major-General to the command he has set that glorious day aside as unworthy of notice. But our patriotic citizens once again demand that our national birthday shall be suitably celebrated, and, Major-Gen. Shaler, don't you forget it!

D. M. S.

Impatient for an Improved Religion.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* To-day thoughtful men and women demand facts, not theological fictions; a genuine gospel of peace and good will, not a gospel of delusion; and all signs indicate a response to the demand. The Adlers, Chadwicks, Frothinghams, and many other noble souls are the heralds of the better gospel, and the time is at hand when that reason and common sense so serviceable in every other department of human thought and action will be found equally serviceable in the domain of theology and religion.

W. C. B.

Who Killed Cock Robin?

"It is vain," said James G. Blaine,
James G. Blaine of the State of Maine.
"Never again shall Conkling reign,
For him I've slain—have slain the twain—
This Gobbler vain, whom I have slain,
Shall not reign or gobble again.
Under my mane does Garfield train"—
Shaking his mane, this lion Blaine.

SUNBEAMS.

—"How may Christians stop intemperance?" is one of the chief topics of discussion announced for the National Temperance Convention which is to meet at Saratoga on the 21st of June.

—The famous old Surrey Chapel, in London, is in course of demolition. It stood on leased land, which now reverts to its original owners. The chapel was opened by the Rev. Rowland Hill in June, 1783. He ministered there for fifty years, and died at the age of 88, in the parsonage which then adjoined the chapel.

—A Philadelphia church had a bare-looking patch of ground in front of its building, which gave the premises a dreary and forbidding appearance. As an expedient for giving this the appearance of a garden, a musical entertainment was given, the price of admission to which was one pot plant for each person entering. The success was immense. All the neighbors and their children crowded into the church on the evening of the entertainment, each bringing a plant in flower. The next morning the sexton and a working committee of the church people set to work to place the plants in position. In a few hours the former wilderness blossomed as the rose. The good work was accomplished without pecuniary inconvenience to anybody.

—At the Convention of the Catholic Young Men's National Union, at Chicago, resolutions were introduced in reference to the chaplaincies in the United States Army. Complaint was made that fifty per cent. of the Catholic soldiers and sailors are left without a spiritual adviser. Out of thirty-four military stations which are provided with chaplains, only two Catholic priests could be found. The *Presbyterian* makes a similar complaint in regard to the chaplaincy, as viewed from its denominational observatory. The fault which this paper finds is that nearly all the chaplaincies are given to clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church. It also complains that the Episcopal liturgy and manner of service are too generally adopted at military stations and on Government vessels. One of the most difficult things for the Government to portion out to the satisfaction of everybody is the proper quota of denominational loaves and fishes.

—The missions conducted by the Quakers in Madagascar have been exceptionally successful. The school at Ambohijatavo has achieved great results in turning the islanders from their old heathen ways and imparting to them the blessings of education as carried on in civilized countries. Spelling books, grammars, and arithmetics have been furnished by the London Missionary Society. In connection with the Friends' school at Faravohitra a printing office has been established, in which the young Madagascar boys learn printing, lithography, and bookbinding. Nearly one hundred of the young persons educated at these two schools have become teachers. The Friends, in all the missionary work they do, rely much more on the power of education than on that of mere exhortation. They want their converts to understand what they believe, and why they believe it, rather than to be influenced by the enthusiastic eloquence of any preacher whom they may happen to hear.

—A great deal of criticism may be expected to-day from various pulpits by brethren who feel it their duty to express their views on the revised New Testament. The expression of views will come not only from scholarly clergymen, who, by reason of their acquaintance with Greek and other languages, are competent to give judgment, but from those who like to be considered scholarly whether they are so or not. Some of those who have the least knowledge of New Testament Greek and the rules for translating it may be expected to be the most critical. There are many who will not hesitate to denounce the work of the translators and revisers as faulty and unsatisfactory. On the strength of a forty-eight hours' opportunity for critical study, these gentlemen will not hesitate to pass judgment on work which has occupied eighty eminent scholars for ten weary years. The immense demand for copies of the revised Testament is a pleasant evidence that the people are reading and studying for themselves to an extent which has never before characterized Scripture study.

—While the Mormons are sending their missionaries all over the civilized world in quest of converts and recruits, the various Christian denominations are doing their best to evangelize Utah. The Presbyterians have forty-four missionaries in the Territory. Eleven of these are clergymen, the others being teachers. About $25,000 a year is spent in the salaries of these missionaries, and about $10,000 more in erecting new church and school buildings. The Congregationalists have two ministers and five teachers. They have recently received an endowment of $30,000 for educational purposes. The Episcopalians maintain a liberal outfit of church, school, and hospital work. The Methodists have ten ministers and eight teachers, some of whom receive only $20 a month salary. The Woman's Home Missionary Society contributes to this work, and the regular missionary fund of the Church appropriates $6,200 a year. Utah is considered by judicious missionaries one of the most hopeful of all fields. Many of the people there are so disgusted with Mormonism that they are ready to accept almost any form of faith that offers relief from it.

—The Young Men's Christian Association Convention will meet at Cleveland, Ohio, on Wednesday, and continue in session three or four days. This Convention represents nearly 1,000 associations in this country and Canada, some of which are large and in healthy condition and others small and almost gasping their final breath. The estimated number of members of these associations is 100,000, but a large majority of this membership is merely nominal, many of the members having no more active connection with their associations than is involved in the keeping of their names on the roll books. The number of associations enjoying vigorous and beneficial life is probably about 150. The others are mostly in very small towns, where the churches have a struggle for existence and where there is not enough religious life outside of them to keep a Christian association afloat. As in former years, so now, the Convention will bring together many genial and earnest Christian men. These men will discuss plans for Christian work, and make excellent suggestions to each other. Although the days of its greatest public vigor are over, the association work still has a great deal of useful vitality.

—There will be an unpleasantness to-day at Lenhartsville, which is in Berks County, Pa. A Sunday school has been held in the Friends' Reformed Church at that place. It has become obnoxious to some of the anti-progressive members of the church, who do not believe in Sunday schools, especially when they hold their meetings in consecrated buildings. These persons said that Pastor Weiss had no right to hold the Sunday school in church without a vote of the pewholders. They asked him to call a meeting of these voters, but this he declined to do, alleging that his official station gave him the right to gather the young into the church building for purposes of religious education. To-day he will try to hold Sunday school as usual, but will encounter organized opposition on the part of his adversaries. It is announced that these brethren will turn out in full force and act as a guard to prevent Brother Weiss and his Sunday school teachers and pupils from entering the sacred edifice. While it would be practicable for the Sunday school people to study their Scripture lesson under the shelter of the church horse-shed, or in the adjacent grove, it is understood that they will not do this in a meek and lowly manner and in a spirit of resignation, but that they will fight for entrance into the church as if they were engaged in personal combat with the adversary of souls.

—For to-day's Sunday school lesson the young people are expected to study the passage in Luke xviii., 1-14, which contains two well-known parables on prayer. The first is that of "The Unjust Judge," the second "The Pharisee and Publican." The story of the Judge is intended to show how a poor woman's wants were relieved by one who had neither mercy nor compassion in his heart. The argument from this is that if such a man would grant the request of a woman for whom he cared nothing, God will infinitely more be ready and glad to grant what His children ask. The lesson from the Pharisee and the publican is in regard to the spirit in which prayer should be offered. The Pharisee here pictured may be taken as the emblem of pompous pride and stately arrogance. In his style of prayer there is a total absence of the spirit of devotion and of all that makes a petition acceptable to God. The prayer of the publican is in marked contrast with this. It is hearty and brief. It contains two important elements of prayer—petition and confession. The poor man confesses his sins, and in a worshipful spirit asks for mercy. We are told that his prayer is accepted. The whole teaching of the lesson is that in praying to God we should address Him with that humble confidence with which children make requests of their father, and that lofty pride and pomposity are offensive to the Almighty.

—Next Wednesday is the marching day of the Sunday school children in Brooklyn. The millinery and dry goods establishments of the City of Churches make great account of this occasion, and set forth in elaborate advertisements their offers of finery for the children. The confectioners and ice cream dealers revel in cheap cakes and an inexpensive sort of ice cream which, on account of its inferior quality, has obtained the somewhat inelegant name of "Sunday school slush." This compound confection is sold for from one half to two-thirds the price of good ice cream. Most of the schools are well provided with gayly painted banners which last a long while and involve no expense for renewal except a little paint and mending from year to year. The principal expense of "marching day" is for dress. This is provided by the families to which the children belong, and the cost, which is heavy, is so widely distributed as not to fall very heavily anywhere. The expense of the cakes and ice cream is generally borne by the churches and Sunday schools. It averages about twenty cents per child. The outlay for new dresses, shoes, and bonnets is estimated at from $1 to $2 per child. As there are about 50,000 children who take part in the processions on this memorable day, it is easy to see that a great deal of money changes hands in the interest of the entertainment of the children. The custom of delivering speeches to the children on anniversary day is every year looked on with more and more disfavor. Although the practice has not been abolished, the speeches have been reduced both in number and length. Formerly a crowd of anniversary children in a church would stand three speeches of fifteen or twenty minutes each. Now the quota is cut down to two, and in many instances to one. "Please be brief," is in many instances the last request whispered in the ear of the speaker as he takes his stand before the audience.